



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

January 21, 2004

Commissioner Mark B. McClellan
United States Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

Dear Commissioner McClellan:

For much of the past year, I have been focusing on identifying ways to help the people of Wisconsin gain access to prescription drugs at the lowest, most competitive prices. Wisconsin's citizens would benefit immensely from access to the drugs made available to Canadian consumers. Those drugs - the same drugs that are available in the United States - are on the Canadian market at a substantial discount off of the U.S. price. I am a firm believer in the need to make every avenue available to the people of Wisconsin to increase the quality of their lives while decreasing the cost of life's necessities. Reducing the amount of money spent by our citizens - including seniors on fixed incomes - on prescription medication is a prime example of such a potential cost savings.

I believe one of the best ways to help Wisconsin citizens lower their prescription drug costs is to create a website that facilitates individuals' access to affordable Canadian drugs. While we have done the research and laid the groundwork for making this happen, we must have cooperation from the federal government to complete the task.

I seek your approval on our state's plan to facilitate the purchase of Canadian pharmaceuticals by Wisconsin citizens through this website. The state's website would directly link to reputable, proven web-based companies in Canada. In relation to this request, I also urge you to recommend that the Secretary exercise his continued authority under 21 U.S.C. § 384(l) to certify to Congress that such importation poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety and will result in a significant reduction in the cost of pharmaceuticals to the United States consumer. In the absence of

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your approval of this course of action, I'd like members of my staff to meet with the FDA in the next 30 days in order to discuss your position on the federal hurdles you believe may exist to prevent this effort.

Sincerely,



Jim Doyle
Governor

cc: Secretary Tommy G. Thompson
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201